IN THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) A gas generator comprising:

an inner tube and an outer tube arranged concentrically one in the other, said inner tube forming a combustion chamber, containing fuel and being closed with a cover plate and an end plate;

an igniter tube extending through said combustion chamber and joining said cover plate to said end plate;

an ignition element disposed in said cover plate, said ignition element having an outlet opening for the ignition gases in communication with said igniter tube;

a longitudinal displaceable piston disposed in said igniter tube;

said igniter tube having radial openings into the combustion chamber disposed therein;

said igniter tube being joined in the end plate to an outlet.

2. (previously presented) The gas generator according to claim 1, wherein a discharge chamber is disposed in said end plate, said outlet of said igniter tube opening into said discharge chamber, said discharge chamber being connected through blowout openings to an afterburning chamber disposed between said outer tube and said inner tube.

3. (previously presented) A gas generator according to claim 1, wherein said piston is joined to said cover plate with a break-away edge.

4. (previously presented) A gas generator according to claim 1, wherein an area for receiving said piston is disposed in said discharge chamber behind said discharge openings in the direction of flow.

5. (currently amended) A gas generator according to claim 1, wherein the number of radial openings in an igniter tube increases toward said outlet opening ~~chamber~~.

6. (previously presented) A gas generator according to claim 1, wherein discharge

openings are disposed in said outer tube.

7. (previously presented) A gas generator according to claim 1, wherein said discharge openings and said blow-out openings are closed by a membrane.

8. (previously presented) A gas generator according to claim 7, wherein after the ignition of said ignition element said piston tears open the blow-out openings.

9. (previously presented) A gas generator according to claim 1, further comprising cooling elements disposed in said afterburning chamber.

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)